

January 15, 2014

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Associated Press: Mich. court to hear arguments in family dispute

"The Michigan Supreme Court is hearing arguments [Wednesday] in a case filed by grandparents who want to visit the children of their deceased son. Two courts have ruled against Robert and Judith Porter because their son's parental rights to two children were terminated before he died. The courts say the Porters have no right to see the grandchildren if the mother objects."

Full story

Note: The Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit News, the News Daily/Rockville, MD, the Republic/Columbus, IN, WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing and other media outlets.

Also see:

Macomb County Legal News: Grandparents' rights case goes before high court

Full story

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Supreme Court will hear arguments in grandparents' visitation case

Full story

The MLW Blog: High court to hear grandparents' visiting rights, highway exception cases

Full story

Grandparents' rights case before Michigan Supreme Court this week; Court also to hear case alleging Michigan pharmacies overcharged for generic prescription drugs

Press release

Detroit Free Press: Patricia Boyle: Former Michigan Supreme Court justice dedicated to public service [update]

"Patricia Boyle agreed to give up a coveted lifetime appointment as a federal district judge to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court. The career move made her the third woman to ever sit on the state's highest bench — and also sparked questions.... Boyle, 76, died [Monday].... Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Saturday at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty in Milford. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main Street."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Obituary: BOYLE, HON. PATRICIA J.

Full story

Ann Arbor News: Obituary: [Hon.] Patricia Boyle (1937 - 2014)

Full story

Associated Press: Patricia Boyle, former state, US judge, dies at 76

Full story

Note: The Associated Press article also ran in the Crescent-News/Defiance, OH, the Republic/Columbus, IN, WGVU News/Grand Rapids and other media outlets.

CBS Local/Detroit: Patricia Boyle, Former State Supreme Court Justice, Dies At 76

Full story

The MLW Blog: Obituary: The Hon. Patricia J. Boyle (1937 – 2014)

Full story

WHMI 93.5 FM/Howell: Former Supreme Court Justice Patricia Boyle of Howell Dies at 76

Full story

The Detroit News: Court upholds law requiring school employee pension contributions

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld the constitutionality of a 2012 law requiring public school employees to contribute more to their pensions to keep their benefits. A three-judge panel concluded the law does not breach teacher union contracts or impair earned pension benefits, upholding a lower court's ruling against the lawsuit brought by the American Federation of Teachers and Michigan Education Association labor unions."

[*Full story*](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Mich. appeals court upholds teacher benefits law

[*Full story*](#)

Note: The Associated Press article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, the Times Herald/Port Huron and other media outlets.

MLive.com: Teachers' unions lose challenge to Michigan pension plan changes

[*Full story*](#)

Detroit Legal News: On the way up: Chief Judge of COA making name for himself nationally

"William B. Murphy's position as head of the Michigan Court of Appeals (COA) will end in January 2015, but he will continue to be immersed in 'Chief Judge' issues for years thereafter. Murphy was elected as 2014 treasurer of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal, the first step in a succession that will see him serve as president in 2017 and immediate past president the following year."

[*Full story*](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Grand Rapids Legal News.

Grand Rapids Legal News: DOJ names Justice McCormack to Commission on Forensic Science

"The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has announced appointments to a newly created National Commission on Forensic Science. Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack is one of those named."

[*Full story*](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Saginaw judge knows the value of 'never giving up'

"Consider him a late bloomer. Darnell Jackson, a Saginaw Circuit Court judge, certainly had his struggles in high school, where he posted a 1.97 grade point average, barely good enough to merit a diploma from Saginaw Buena Vista. So how does he explain his eventual rise to the circuit court seat? 'Perseverance,' he proclaimed."

[*Full story*](#)

Lansing State Journal: Lansing man's life sentence upheld in double-murder involving MSU freshman

"The state Court of Appeals has upheld the life sentence being served by a Lansing man convicted of killing a Michigan State University freshman and his roommate during a drug robbery. Benjamin French,

25, was found guilty of murder and armed robbery charges in the March 25, 2010 killings of Darren Brown Jr. and Owen Goodenow. In an opinion released today, a three-judge appeals' court panel upheld the convictions."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Discussing 'real-life issues' with law school students

"Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus recently hosted a State Bar of Michigan Professionalism in Action Orientation program. Oakland County 51st District Court Judge Jodi Debbrecht Switalski was among the speakers who addressed the students."

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: Lansing-area lawyers gather to 'meet the judges'

"Frigid temperatures and heavy snowfall last week did not keep mid-Michigan attorneys from venturing out to meet and greet the judges who preside over many of their cases. On Thursday, Jan. 9, the Ingham County Bar Association held its third annual 'Meet the Judges' reception, one of the ICBA's most popular events. Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court were invited to the event, as were Michigan Court of Appeals, federal and local judges. Local hearing referees were also asked to attend."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Phil Power: Deck slanted toward one-party government in Michigan

"Last Sunday, the New York Times published an in-depth article on the rapidly growing number of states in which one political party – usually the GOP – controls all of state government. That's now the case in Michigan, where Republican Rick Snyder is governor and the GOP runs both houses of the legislature, and has a majority on the state Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: An important criminal justice 'tool': Muskegon County breaks ground on new jail

"A new Muskegon County Jail wasn't a reason to celebrate, officials said at a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 14. But they still took notice of the start of construction on the new facility, the need for which has been discussed for decades.... 'The decision to go forward with this project ... is a recognition that the first goal of government is the safety of its residents,' said Circuit Court Judge William Marietti."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: 2014 National Court Reporting and Captioning Week kicks off Feb. 16

"Court reporters, captioners, CART providers, and court reporting schools around the country are making plans now to celebrate the 2014 National Court Reporting and Captioning Week scheduled for Feb. 16 - 22 with events that will range from securing official proclamations recognizing the occasion, to hosting open houses, Veterans History Project Days, media outreach, and more."

[Full story](#)

WZZM-TV(13)/Grand Rapids: Who's liable if you fall on an icy street? Nobody

"This winter weather will inevitably bring more ice to our neighborhood streets, but some areas are still ice rinks. But if you fell while walking on the street, who would be liable Cooley Law School Professor Nelson Miller says the rules of the roads, are simple. Homeowners, homeowners associations, rental properties and cities are not liable if you slip and fall.... Over the years, decisions by the Michigan Supreme Court have made it more difficult for someone to sue."

[Full story](#)